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Date of Signature and Deposit: 22 March, 2002,

Attorney of Record

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ravi Rajwar *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/037,041

Filed: October 19, 2001

For: Concurrent Execution of Critical Sections by Eliding Ownership of Locks

Docket No.: 960296.98440

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Prior to the first Office Action in the above referenced case, please amend the application as follows:

Please amend the section entitled "Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research or Development" to read:

This invention was made with United State government support awarded by the following agencies: NSF 9810114. The United States has certain rights in this invention.

CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims:

43. A method of coordinating the execution of multiple program threads executing critical sections of a program, the critical sections accessing common memory and being preceded by lock acquisition sections where writing to a lock variable mediates exclusive access to the common memory, the method comprising the steps of:

for each given thread:

(a) upon reaching a lock acquisition section, reading the lock variable to see if the lock has been acquired by another thread; and